THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Purchase of Admiral Gorshkov**

154. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reached a negotiation with the Russians for the purchase of the Admiral Gorshkov Aircraft Carrier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed on 4th October, 2000 with the Government of the Russian Federation which, *inter-alia*, provides for the acquisition of "Admiral Gorshkov", an aircraft carrier, from Russia and its refit and modernisation. Negotiations for procurement of Admiral Gorshkov are being held.

**Clearance to Vallarpadam container terminal project**

155. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the requisite clearance for the Vallarpadam container terminal project was sought from the Indian Navy long before; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if the clearance is not given so far, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

On March 22, 2002, clearance was sought for installation of cranes of 120 metre height at the Project site. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry.